

*not used*

I, Harold Stennett WILLIAMS of Army Headquarters  
MELBOURNE make oath and say:

1. I am an Officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked "A" is a true copy of a transcript of evidence sworn by Mr. Joseph Reyetsi DOKURO on 7 Dec 45 which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
3. The original sworn transcript of evidence cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

(S) E.S. Williams VX8900Z  
Major

SWORN BEFORE ME AT MELBOURNE  
THIS FIFTH DAY OF MAY 1946.

(S) Peckam O. H. Chapple Capt.  
An Officer of the  
Australian Military Forces.

SECRET

File No.  
1410

For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE  
Judge Advocate General's Office — Navy Department  
United States of America

In the matter of the whipping  
resulting in the death of  
Mr. Dekuro, Mauruan, who  
resided on Suzuki Island.

Perpetuation of Testimony  
of Mr. Joseph Reyetsi  
Dekuro, Tol Island, Truk.

Taken at: Fouba Village, Tol Island, Truk.

Date: December 4, 1945.

In the presence of: Thomas Santamarie, first lieutenant, 032989,  
U.S.M.C.R., Base Headquarters Company (Provisional),  
Island Command, Truk.

Reporter: George C. Lishka, Corporal, 679071, U.S.M.C.R.,  
Base Headquarters Company, (Provisional),  
Island Command, Truk.

Questions by: Thomas Santamarie, first lieutenant, 032989,  
U.S.M.C.R.

Q. State your name, permanent home address and occupation.  
A. Mr. Joseph Reyetsi Dekuro, Mauruan. I have lived on Truk since August  
1943, and have been employed by the Japanese on the airfield at Faram.

Q. What is your war time status?  
A. A displaced civilian.

Q. Did you witness any atrocity or mistreatment of allies at any time?  
A. Yes.

Q. What did you witness?  
A. I saw the cruel whipping administered on my father by the Japanese.

Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about the incident.  
A. One day about two or three weeks before the end of the war I was with  
my father at our home when I saw two Japanese approaching our house. It



was between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. These two Japanese came into the house and opened a trunk in which we kept our belongings and took out all of our fish lines. My father grabbed the fish lines from them. I ran to my father's aid and also grabbed the fish lines. I told them that they could not have the lines without paying for them and that we be given food as pay. They said that they would not pay for the lines and one of them slapped me in the face three or four times. One of the Japanese took a knife off the floor and threatened us by brandishing the knife over his head in a striking position. We let go of the lines and ran to the house where the foreman was living to report the incident. On reaching the house the foreman not at home and we took another road leading to the office where he might be. As we were walking down the road the two Japanese who walked behind us, grabbed us and tied our hands behind our backs, with the help of several other Japanese who had been called after my father and I put up a struggle. We were then taken to the foreman's office. I told him we were beaten by the two Japanese who had trailed us to the office. We were then led out of the office and to a spot where there was a coconut tree and tied one on each side of the tree. When they began to whip us we tried to avoid the blows, consequently, I and my father received most of the blows on the shoulder and back. I was given several strokes but my father received more. I was released and told to go fishing. I took a few paces, turned back and saw my father walking toward the beach with the two Japanese and I saw them tying both his legs and then push him so that he would fall on the sand. Then another Japanese went toward the group with a stick. He commenced beating my father while the other two Japanese kicked him. One ran back to the office and when he came out I saw him lighting something held in his hand. He threw this at my father which I saw land in the water and explode. After the explosion one of them noticed me watching and told me to leave. I went home picked up my goggles and went fishing with two Koreans. We did not dare return to where my father was being held for we had no firearms and would have suffered the same treatment. On returning from fishing, I saw my father who had been carried and assisted home by my mother, sister, another woman, and the help of children. His body was covered with bruises and on the lower portion of his back was a large bruise about five inches in diameter appearing to be a burnt spot. His right eye was swollen and the eye itself was a dark red. Mother tried to feed him but he couldn't eat very much. He lived in this condition about nine days and then passed away.

Q. Do you know the names of the men involved in this case?

A. Yes,

Q. What are they?

A. The names of the two Japanese who came to our house and opened the trunk are Tereko and Kikishimo, and the ones who assisted in the whipping are Satanabe and Ongawa.

Q. Did all four help to whip you and your father?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you recognize these men if you see them?

A. Yes.

Q. How did you know the war ended?

A. A Korean told me. When we saw planes approaching we started to run for shelter and he informed us that the war was over.

Q. On what island was the whipping administered?

A. On the island of Suzuki.

Q. Was this before or after you went to work on Laram?

A. After.

Q. How long were you living on the island of Suzuki when this act took place?

A. Five or six months.

(sgd) REYETSI

Mr. Joseph Reyetsi Dekuro,  
Tol Island, Truk.

Tol Island

Truk and Central Carolines

I, Mr. Joseph Reyetsi Dekuro, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(sgd) REYETSI

Mr. Joseph Reyetsi Dekuro

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA

T. SANTAMARIA,  
1st Lt., USMCR.,  
Legal Officer.



SECRET

Tol Island

Truk and Central Carolines

I, Mr. Phillip J. Harris, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath state that I truly translated the questions asked and answers given and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 3 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

(sgd) PHILLIP J. HARRIS  
Mr. Phillip J. Harris

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA  
T. SANTAMARIA,  
1st Lt., USMCR.,  
Legal Officer

I, T. Santamaria, first Lieutenant, 032989, U.S.M.C.R., certify that on 4 December 1945, personally appeared before me Mr. Joseph Reyetsi Dekuro, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Mr. Joseph Reyetsi Dekuro read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: FOUBA VILLAGE, TOL

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA

Date: 7th December, 1945

1st Lt., USMCR.,  
Island Command, Truk

Fingerprint of  
Mr. Joseph Reyetsi Dekuro,  
Witness.

Fingerprint of  
Mr. Phillip J. Harris,  
Interpreter.